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Chapter 1

"There aren't any eggs, there's nothing here." A child said disappointedly. Children were leaving the part, all feeling disappointed at the failed egg hunt.

"I give up, he didn't come."

They were losing hope

"Come on."

Their childlike magical view of the world

"I don't understand."

Neither did the guardians

Bunny looked in fear as the park was emptying fast. Children of all ages were left disappointed and hopeless. It hurt to see them like that, pain racing through his center like a fire in the summer bush. He saw 2 children at a table, still the slightest shred of hope left. He had to act fast, make them believe he was real.

Against all instincts, honed in the past few centuries, Bunny jumped out into the open and hopped to the children. "Kids! Oi!" If they saw him, for sure they would convince the others he was real.

Right?

The young girl was sitting on top of a table, solemnly watching her friend still search. "Maybe he just hid them really well this year?" She questioned, though she sounded more like she was trying to convince herself. Her friend stopped looking in the bushes, giving up on his halfhearted search. "There's nothing here, I looked everywhere." He said and walked to her friend.

Bunny got to the children and tried to hand them some of the slightly damaged eggs they managed to save. "Yes there is! There is! I mean these aren't my best lookin' googies, but they'll do in a pinch!"

"I can't believe it." The girl jumped off of the bench. Bunny felt a rush of hope go through him, smiling at the young child in front of him. "Ay I know. He chuckled a little nervously, holding up his egg. He looked between it and the girl but something felt off and he knew it too. He raised a quizzing brow as the girl didn't look happy at all, eyes pointed at the grass below her feet.

"There's no such thing as the Easter Bunny."

Bunny looked shocked. How could they say such a thing? He was right there! Right in front of them! They can't not have seen him!

"Easter is over. Forget this." The boy said to his friend as they to started to leave the park.

Bunny really started to panic. His center was screaming, this was wrong! All of it! It wasn't supposed to be like this! He was created to protect children, protect hope, but they were all giving up.

"What? No!" He yelled trying in vain to get the last children's attention.

"There's no such thing."

"I know. Now come on."

"Easter Bunny where are you?"

"Let's get out of here"

Bunny desperately tried to make the children see him. He jumped in front of a boy, hoping to block his way.

"Why didn't he come? This is the worst Easter ever." Bunny was breathing heavily after the child walked through him. He looked on shocked as all of the children had left.

"They...They don't see me." He choked out in disbelief and fear. His center felt cold. All over the world children were losing hope. The burning passion that fueled his magic was burning out as nobody believed in the Easter Bunny anymore. In him. In hope. The spark of childhood has already been extinguished in all of them.

"They don't see me." He breathed before crouching down. He caressed the last remaining eggs he had and cried quietly. Sadness and loneliness washed over him as he felt the lights go out in each child. Tooth flew over to bunny to comfort him. She had never seen Bunny this upset and she didn't know how to soothe the pain he was feeling.

Jack had seen it all. He couldn't believe what he saw with his own disbelieving eyes. Easter was ruined and he could almost see the magical vibrant colors of spring leaving the plants. He really wanted to go to Bunny, make sure he was okay. If anybody could help it would be him. He had known the feeling of being walked through for the passed 300 years. Right as he was making a step to the Kangaroo, North called out.

"Jack! Where were you?" The Corsac rasped, still trying to catch his breath. He couldn't look Jack in the eye as he relayed what happened as if it was all a horrible joke. "The Nightmares attacked the tunnels. They smashed *every* egg, crushed every basket. *Nothing* made it to the surface." He gestured with his swords, swinging at an invisible enemy.

Jack couldn't believe what happened. Pitch had been focused on him, how did he also control the Nightmares and cause such chaos?

"Jack!" Tooth called out before he could find words to say. She flew over from Bunny to flutter next to North, losing a few feathers on the way as she too was affected by the loss of belief. As she looked Jack over for injuries she gasped at what he held in his hand.

"Where did you get that?"

Jack raised his tooth container, knowing he shouldn't have it. "I was...it's..um..." He couldn't find the words. He knew it was all his fault. He did this to them.

"Where is Baby Tooth?" She called worriedly. She knew her little fairy liked to hang out with the winter spirit, but she would always stay in sight of Tooth.

Jack really didn't know what to say. How could he possibly tell them he got tricked by some voice and then Pitch? Would they even believe him? Why would they?

"Oh Jack." Tooth's disappointed tone was all the proof he needed that they wouldn't believe him no matter what. "What have you done?"

North felt anger bubbling up as he connected the dots. "That's where you were?" He almost demanded, stepping forward. "You were with *Pitch*?!" He yelled at the young spirit. He felt betrayed. Betrayed by the boy he had put his hopes in. Hope that was crushed, just like the eggs.

Jack frantically tried to defend himself. Make them understand. They had to! He didn't mean for this to happen! They had to know he wouldn't do this on purpose! "No, listen, listen" he started, trying to find the words, any words that would come out "I'm sorry. I didn't mean for this to happen."

Before he could explain further, Bunny walked up to the group. He couldn't listen to any more of this. "He has to go." He breathed heavily as Jack turned to face him. All his fear, loneliness, sadness, it all turned to anger. Anger towards the young boy he had started to see as a friend. "We should *NEVER* have trusted you." He yelled in the boy's face. He was ready to punch him, fist in the air and hoping closer. But he couldn't. No matter how badly he wanted to take out his anger and frustration on the younger, he was a child. Immortal, but a child. Bunny couldn't hurt a child.

Jack jumped back in fear, tears were brimming in his eyes as he saw his once friend almost hurt him. He had all the right though, Jack thought, as he had hurt the elder guardian just as much. Bunny's anger calmed down a bit at the fear in Jack's eyes. His angered tone shifting to a disappointed one as Tooth's had. "Easter is new beginnings. New life. Easter's about hope. And now it's gone." He slowly turned from the group and walked away. His

fighting spirit had given up.

Jack turned to the other guardians, hoping for any kind of support, any say that Bunny was wrong to blame him. Fear was running through his veins, slightly hyperventilating. Oh how he hoped they would lie and say everything would be okay. That it wasn't his fault. But they didn't. North and Tooth did nothing but turn away with hurt showing clear on their face. Jack took out the little wooden baby North had given him at the pole. The guardians, his friends, had all but told him to leave. What was the point of looking for his center as there was no way he would become a guardian anymore. If children didn't believe in the Big 4, why would they believe in him?

He dropped the figure on the ground as he silently asked the wind to take him away before something else would happen.

Wind was leading him somewhere, away from everyone who he had disappointed. Sadly, wind couldn't take him away from himself. He hated himself for getting tricked like that, for falling into the trap, breaking his promise. He should have been there, should have been fighting on the front lines. No. All he did was get Baby Tooth captured and ruin Easter by letting Pitch win. Now they hated him and they would never believe him. Nobody would.

No, there might be one person left. He might not even be here but there is one person who would understand how he feels, how it isn't his fault.

One friend who he was almost certain would never turn his back on him. But where would he find the man? It's been ages since he last saw his partner in crime. Somewhere around 68' he believes. It was a few months before Easter of that year. Jack had been upset when he had to leave again, leaving the winter child alone yet again. He had gotten so upset with only one friend who couldn't stay for long that he accidentally caused the blizzard that Bunny still hates him more. Probably even more now.

Jack really wasn't paying any attention to where he was going, so it was wind's job to keep him from flying into anything. Which is why Jack was suddenly shot higher into the sky to avoid the tree he was

headed to. The sudden jolt made the young immortal break away from his thoughts and focus more on the flying. He still didn't care for direction, as long as it wasn't hot. But not crashing into things was something he did care for.

Jack thought of his trickster friend. He did like going a bit overboard but that is what Jack was for. Prevent anything that wouldn't make it fun anymore. But he didn't mind. Their mischief isn't all where they were similar in. They both has a good resistance to the cold and his friend even showed his ice magic. Not too often as he didn't like using it, but sometimes when they went to really cold places or for a playful threat.

Jamie probably would have liked him. He really seems to have something for mythological creatures and legends. It hurt to think he believed those but not in him. Jamie would probably wish he didn't if he did, after today...

He just wanted to go to his lake and never leave it again. But he knew he couldn't. Somebody had to bring winter. At least he could keep an eye on the kid. Last he saw, Jamie was raving to his friends about some attack on New York a while back and how these human heroes stopped an alien attack of sorts.

Wait

That's it!

"Wind! Take me to New York!"

A/N: please leave a comment if you liked it. If you want sneak peaks to new chapters, follow me on ig at pikawingss

Chapter 2

As Jack got closer to New York, his feelings of fear and abandonment began to grow again. It had been a while since he had spoken to somebody who wasn't also a spirit. What if he couldn't see him anymore? Would he have heard about what happened at Easter yet? The spirit rumor mill never stopped, especially not if it was about him. Or more specifically, hating him even more than they did before. Being spotted with the guardians had certainly slowed down the spread of growing hate for the winter spirit, but it really didn't take long for news to spread.

He knew that he would never get help if everybody hated him. The guardians already turned their backs, the entire spirit realm hated him to begin with so they weren't an option either. No, this really was his only option.

Tony and some of the other avengers were sitting in the living room watching a movie. The tower was restored and Fury had chewed them out for whatever reason he didn't care to listen to earlier. Thus he declared it a quiet evening. Of course Steve suggested a movie night. There were lots of movies on his list that he still wanted to finish. It being Tony's place, he chose Star Wars from the list. Thor had decided on a visit and after some time with Jane he came the tower as well. Something about warriors bonding being important. They were about halfway the movie, drinks and snacks littered the floors around each person.

Jarvis lowered the volume of the movie. "Sir, I have picked up an unusual cold front approaching fast. Should I prepare the generators for emergency?"

Tony sighed at his AI. "Did you really have to interrupt the movie

for a little bit of cold wind?" He said with his mouth full of candies. Bruce actually looked at the map Jarvis was presenting and studied it. "Um Tony I don't think this is *just* a 'cold wind'. Not with the speed and diameter it's moving at."

Tony rolled his eyes and looked at the map. Just as Bruce has said, there is a large blue blot on the map, heading straight for the city. Temperatures started dropping fast in the surrounding areas to below freezing. "Jarvis pause the movie and set the heating higher. Oh and keep an eye out for whatever is causing this. If it's tech I want to know."

"Tony is this really necessary?" Clint asked, "So what if it's a bit cold, we're inside and it's not like we're planning on going anywhere anytime soon."

"This isn't some normal storm, Clint. They don't just move that fast and drop so low. Especially this time of year. We can't even get a decent measurement of they eye, which we will be in in a few minutes." Dr. Banner said as he and Tony studied the maps and security feed.

Steve didn't understand much of it, but Thor sure seemed to be interested. He leaped out of his chair and went over to the scientists. "What is this cold you speak of?" He said while still enjoying his popcorn.

"It's going too fast for a natural storm, something is causing it to either move or create the whole thing together. The eye has reached the outer edges of the city already. At this rate it should be above the tower in-"

"FRIEND JACK!" Thor boomed and the threw his bucket in the air from joy and ran outside. "How good to see you again my friend! What brings you here?" He asked as he approached the helipad.

Wind gentle lowered Jack a bit and he nervously rubbed the back of his neck. "Good to see you too, Thor. I, um, I'm kinda looking for Loki? Would you know where he is?" He almost whispered. He really didn't like being in the city right now. He could feel everything yelling at him to get out, that winter wasn't needed here.

But he had to know.

Thor smiled brightly at the winter child as he threw a hand on his shoulder. "I may not know his exact whereabouts, but I am aware of his residence near one of our quests! He had taken a liking to the area in our search for the mighty Kraken. I do think you may find him there. Say, what has made you bring this storm with you? Has something happened to upset you?" He asked as he noticed how Jack was not wanting to come too close and was guarding his body well.

Jack tried to ease the god's worry with a forced laugh. "It's nothing to worry about. I'm sorry 'bout the cold though, I didn't mean for it to get this bad. But don't worry, when I'm gone, it will be too." He said as a started to slowly float up again. "Your friends are waiting, Thor, you should go back inside. Sorry about the frosting though, you might want to dry off after heating up."

Thor bellowed a laugh and he waved off the worry. "Fear not my friend, the man of iron has no issue with some water inside. I do wish you safe travels my friend. May Jormungandr guide you on your way! Do make another visit soon, we have a lot to talk about!"

Jack waved his goodbyes as he set off for the northern points of Norway.

Thor walked back inside. "Fear not about the cold. It will be gone in a moment's time." He said as the frost had already started to melt thanks to an extra blast of hot air, curtesy of Jarvis.

"Who were you talking to out there?" Tony asked. This didn't make much sense, but little ever did with Thor around.

Thor smiled brightly. "That was my good friend Jack! He simply wished some information and continued on his quest to find my brother." He looked at his clothes and realized he was more soaked than he had anticipated. "If you'll excuse me, I require a fresh set of clothing." He left to his room, leaving the other's confused.

"Guys," Clint broke the silence, "is it me or was there nobody outside?"

Tony threw his hands in the air as he went back to his food. "That's it, no more movies for Thor."

Getting to Norway took a bit longer than he hoped, but having to cross the ocean did give him an opportunity to blow off some steam. The longer he was left alone with his thoughts, the more the fear and hurt turned to anger. Anger at Pitch, at himself, but also at the guardians.

Okay, so he messed up big time, but they didn't even listen! He saved their asses from the nightmares multiple time now, but one mess up and they cast him away again! He never bothered them in 300 years, he helps when they need him, and then cast him out like it meant nothing. Nothing! He may not be much, but he was worth more than being cast out after one mistake.

Now he just really wished he would find Loki fast because if he couldn't listen and believe him, he honestly didn't know what to do anymore.

After what seemed like forever, he was finally starting to near where Thor said to go. Tagging along in looking for the Kraken was pretty fun. He just happened to be in the area for a snow day and they had asked him to join. They searched for a while and Jack to leave for a Blizzard in Russia, but they did have fun pranking and annoying Thor for the time he was there. As he got closer and didn't see any structures where Loki could be hiding, he just started calling for his friend.

Wind nudged him into a densely forested area. He kept yelling for Loki to come out and after much yelling aided by the wind, the black haired man finally popped up. "How lovely you come visit with such a beautiful blizzard." He trickster said as Jack few straight for him. Loki could immediately see something had upset him with the raging blizzard slowly growing in size. "What happened." He said darkly as he knew Jack didn't lose control often.

"The guardians happened!" Jack almost screamed. "I made one stupid mistake and they all turned their backs on me after I saved them not even a day before! How is it my fault that I got locked up in his stupid maze lair? How was I supposed to know he would attack the eggs?!" As he kept saying what he had been keeping to himself, the blizzard started getting worse. Wind was circling Jack, trying to protect and calm him down before the storm grew too big.

Loki knew Jack was close to losing control over the storm with the way he was going. Not like he could blame him. He grabbed Jack's arm and teleported them over to Antarctica. Far away from anybody that could get hurt in the storm should it break free from Jack's control, sucking him dry of all his energy until there is nothing left and it dissipates. Jack hadn't even noticed the change of scenery and it wasn't before long that a new storm had formed around them.

The temperatures were dropping fast and it started getting way lower than humanly possible to withstand. Jack was still rambling on about what happened, not noticing a thing of what happened around him. Loki yelled for him to stop, to control the blizzard but it had no use, the raging wind around them was too loud for Jack to hear. The cold was starting to get unbarring and he had no choice but to force out some of his Jötunn magic. Letting his skin turn blue, he fought his way through the cutting winds to reach Jack.

Getting close enough to the winter spirit, he grabbed his arms and yelled in the poor kid's face. Jack stopped from the shock of blue Loki screaming at him. The winds calmed and the storm weakened in power. With the temperatures at a more tolerable range, Loki pulled back and let his skin turn back.

"I...It got bad again, didn't it?" Jack asked, not being able to look Loki in the eyes. Loki knew he was beating himself up for almost losing control like that. "You have every right to be mad, what you don't have any right to is giving me frostbite." He said in a feeble attempt at cheering Jack up. "I just keep messing up, don't I?" The young spirit chuckled, but there was no merit to it. "I really didn't mean for any of this to happen. I was just bringing Sofie home and then I heard this voice. It sounded so familiar. Should have listened to Baby Tooth, she didn't want me going in. If I had listened she

would have been safe and I would have been there to stop the Nightmares from ruining Easter! Then Bunny wouldn't have gotten mad and almost hit me-"

"The rabbit did *what*?" Loki demanded darkly. "If that hare touched even one strand of you hair I swear I will send him to Hellheim myself." Loki glared, but not directed at Jack. He knew he was rather fond of the young immortal. Not many so easily accepted his heritage. This child seemed almost delighted with the monster he was. Jack reminded Loki a lot of what he now wished he could have done as a child. Rather than being shunned for his magic use in Asgard, he could have used it to it's full potential. Jack was what he could have been like and by the gods he will make sure he is safe. But that shall never be spoken of unless they wish to be incarcerated in a fiery dungeon in the depts of Muspelheim. Or perhaps their tongues cut off and fed to Fenrir.

Jack was quick to dismiss the growing rage of Loki. "He didn't do it. But I wouldn't blame him if he did. It's my fault Easter got ruined and he lost his believers. I mean, yeah, I thought we were friends but I guess I was too hopeful, as ironic as that is." Jack signed as he looked away. "It doesn't matter now, not like I can do anything about it anymore. They never want to see me again." He tried to put his hands in his hoodie pouch but felt cold metal blocking his way.

He groaned in anger as he pulled it out. "If it wasn't for that voice and these stupid teeth I wouldn't even be in this mess!" He yelled as he can for the edge of the cliff they were standing on, ready to throw the cursed thing into the water and forget it exists.

But he couldn't do it. He tried but he couldn't make himself let it go. Loki walked up to Jack as he inspected the canister and the picture of himself. "Huh, I always would have thought your hair was natural." He joked. "Keep the thing for now, I can put it with the rest of my artifacts if u want to have it out of sight."

Jack thought about it for a moment but handed it to Loki anyway. He really didn't want to have it on him right now, but knowing it's safe and he can get it back whenever was fine by him. He was finally starting to calm a bit, looking out to the freezing ocean always helped him calm.

"I thought this might happen."

Chapter 3

"I thought this might happen"

The serene scene had been ruined by the sickeningly fake concern in that cursed voice.

"They never really believed in you. I was just trying to show you that." It continued as anger was flaring back up inside of Jack. Loki didn't show any outward signs of having heard it, but he was already readying his daggers to gut the damn spirit and feed it to the draugar.

"But I understand."

Jack had had enough and released the first attack, sending a blast of ice to the shadowy foe. He jumped in the air and leaped over Pitch to send a second attack from the other side as well. "You don't understand anything!"

Pitch simply blocked the attack with his sand, his powers having grown considerably since their last battle. "No?! I don't know what it's like to be cast out?!" He sent out 2 blasts of his own, forcing the winter spirit to dodge and leap into the air.

Jack sent a powerful blast at him, reaching the same levels as their first solo battle. Pitch brought up a pillar of sand to block the attack. "To not be believed in?!" From the settling dust he yelled out again. "To long for a-a family." He almost said desperately.

Jack turned to face him again as Pitch walked closer without attacking this time. He fell out of his defensive stance as he gave Pitch a chance to talk. The nightmare king didn't look at Jack, casting his eyes down as he opened up more. "All those years in the shadows I thought no one else knows what it feels like. But now I see I was wrong." Pitch locked eyes with Jack. He seemed to really be contemplating what was going on.

Pitch smirked a bit. "We don't have to be alone, Jack."

Before he could even muster another sound. A slow clap resonated from behind them. They turned to see Loki, lounging in a chair with a hot cup of tea on a table. Loki deadpanned at Pitch as he kept up his slow applause, much to the annoyance of the Nightmare King. He slowly got up and walked to them. "Thanks for the dinner theatre, but that's enough. The child isn't alone, so no need for your melodramatic performance." Loki went to stand with Jack, very well knowing he was getting on Pitch's nerves. He was definitely not putting himself between them to protect the younger.

Pitch hid his growing scowl behind a charming smile. "Oh how could I have forgotten the presence of the God of trickery. I must say, it is an honor. But I fear you understand my intentions wrong. I believe Jack is capable of great things." He bowed slightly before moving to circle the pair. "I believe in him. And I know the children will too." Jack couldn't believe his ears. Somebody believed? "In me?" Is there still a way to be seen? Was there really a chance?

Loki kept an eye on Pitch as he moved. To him it was obvious he was trying to trick Jack. What he didn't know was how. What was his angle.

Pitch saw Jack was believing his words and delightfully cried out. "Yes! Look at what we can do!" He gestured to the structure that their powerful attacks had created. "What goes better together than dark and cold?" Nightmare sand incased in ice. Beautiful yet dangerous. "And you, sir Loki. With you with us as a mediator between spirits and humans, who wouldn't believe our existence! Your reputation alone should be enough to solidify the belief in us!" He turned back to Jack, convincing the boy seemed so close. "We can make them believe, Jack. We can give them a world where everything, *everything* is-"

"Pitch Black?" The frost beings both said, though Loki sounded more bored than questioning.

Pitch knew it looked bad for him so he had to make up something fast. "And Jack Frost, too. And who better to rule over the humans than a god himself?" He looked at Loki. The man will not be easily

convinced but he can always try. "They'll believe in both of us, ruled by a mighty god who will not be defeated."

Loki rolled his eyes at the ass-kissery Pitch was trying. "Yes, well, I believe I'll pass."

Jack glared at Pitch. This was all just a trick again, so he would get what he wants. If it has to be forced, then he rather remain unseen. "No, they'll fear us. And that is not what I want." Jack turned to leave and Loki went with, readying himself to teleport them out of there. "Now, for the last time, leave me alone."

Pitch glared at the retreating figures of his would-be allies. He almost had that insolent child convinced were it not for the meddling Asgardian. Plan B it is then. "Very well. You want to be left alone? Done. But first..."

Of course he had to pull something right before they left. Jack whipped around at the pained squeaks of Baby Tooth. The little fairy was trapped in Pitch's fist. "Baby Tooth!" Jack called out, reaching forward to come to her aid. As Jack got closer, Pitch squeezed harder. Baby Tooth squeaked frantically, telling Jack to not fall for the obvious trap. Jack got into a battle stance, ready to fight for the little fairy's safety.

Loki about had it with the dramatics and pulled out his daggers. "Let the bird-child go Pitch. Whatever it is that you want, you will not get it." He slowly stalked closer.

Pitch seemed to ponder for a while before giving a finite answer. "Yes, well, I do believe I'll have to pass. This isn't your battle to fight, Loki. Return to Asgard, or Jötunheim, whichever you wish, but stay out of this." He warned as the trickster god was very much getting on his last nerve.

"I am a god, you pathetic creature, you are beneath me and shall not dare to tell me what to say. Do as I say and let the bird-child go, or I will personally drag you to Alfheim where there isn't a single shadow to hide in." Loki promised as he lunged forward, daggers at the ready. Before he reached Pitch however, Loki was dragged into the shadows by a horde of Nightmares.

Jack stood in shock as he watched his closest friend disappear. "What did you do to him?!" He held up his staff, ice crackling thought the wood, brimming to be released.

Pitch simple laughed mockingly. "You are in no place to give demands, dear boy. But if you must know, he is simply taking a ride though the shadow realm. I wouldn't count on him being back any time soon. Now, hand me the staff or you get to see another friend disappear because of your incompetence. End your bad habit of interfering, and I'll let her go." He squeezed Baby Tooth a bit harder to add pressure onto Jack to surrender.

With Loki gone, Jack really felt alone. Truly, he knew he didn't have any other option. Pitch had gotten too strong, he can't take him alone. He can't risk losing Baby Tooth too, after all it's his fault she is in this position. Even if there was anybody still left to fight for him, they wouldn't get here on time. Not even Thor and Mjölnir. Jack lowered his stance and handed it to Pitch, much to the protest of Baby Tooth.

The moment Pitch ripped it out of his hands, the once powerful conductor of Jack's magic was dull. The frost patterns that decorated the wood dissipated immediately. Within milliseconds, the once powerful and beautiful weapon was reduced to nothing more than an old piece of wood. Jack looked up, glaring with whatever fight he still had left. "Alright, now let her go."

Pitch acted like he was actually considering it, happy he got what he wanted. That happy smile turned into a cold and bored stare. "No," he shook his head, "you wanted to be alone? So be alone!"

Baby Tooth got mad and noticed the loosened grip on her body. With the little extra wiggle space, she managed to move her head just enough to peck him in the thumb with all her might.

Pitch screamed in pain and threw Baby Tooth as far as he could. She was of no use to him anyway so no point in keeping her.

Jack tried to watch where Baby Tooth few off to but it was impossible to follow her small frame over such a distance. He turned back to Pitch, wanting to fight. He was only in time to watch

Pitch snap his staff in half over his knee.

He screamed out in pain. His entire body felt like it went up in flames. Before he could even move, Pitch had already sent out a wave of sand and shoved Jack down a crevasse. Without his staff he couldn't ask the wind so soften his fall, not like he would have been conscious enough to do so. His body came to rest against the wall of the crevasse. Pitch looked at him from above. "Oh how the mighty have fallen." He chuckled as he threw down the broken pieces of what used to be Jack's staff. As Jack passed out from the pain, Pitch shadow travelled away.

He didn't know how long he had been gone, But Loki finally managed to break away from the sand creatures long enough to teleport back to where Jack was. He saw him laying against the ice wall and rushed over. The young spirit was completely out cold, and Loki could tell something was off.

The winds outside of the crevasse were picking up, no longer soft and playful but cold and cutting. Loki saw the broken staff and picked it up. Jack's connection to the winter elements had been cut off. With nobody to keep it under control, nature was free to do as it pleased.

With the fragmented staff in hand he went back to Jack. The child wasn't looking well and he knew he had to get him to safety. Swinging an arm over his shoulder, Loki lifted up Jack's frail body. The sudden movement got Jack to wake up for a second. "Baby Tooth." He rasped, concerned for his tiny friend.

Loki looked around for the small bird-child and saw a small lump of iridescent green a bit deeper into the crevasse. Carefully balancing Jack, Loki bent down to pick up the little helper.

Baby Tooth squeaked as she was getting picked up, fearing it was Pitch again. She looked quizzingly at Loki, ready to fight if needed.

He looked at the tiny being in his hand, wondering why it had to be him that befriended the young immortal. "Jack would never forgive

me if I left you here." He said as he shifted Jack into a more comfortable position. The temperatures started to drop fast as the start of a snowstorm started to form just a few feet above them. He was sure the little fairy wouldn't last long in this weather. "Can you stand?" He asked. Baby Tooth stood up and walked up Loki's arm to stand on his shoulder.

Loki took a glance between the fairy and theteen draped over his shoulder. Where his brother to hear of his, he feared hewould never hear the end of it. Loki warned Baby Tooth to brace herself as heteleported them back to his cabin.

Chapter 4

Jack had been at Loki's cabin a few hour now but had yet to wake. Baby Tooth had heated up near the fire, but couldn't be of much help. Her wings were somewhat damaged from being squeezed and thrown into ice. No doubt was some of it due to the freezing temperatures. Her sisters and her never went to the colder places before getting extra attention to prevent their delicate wings from the harsh winds. But it didn't matter much, as she could feel Tooth's magic being close to none existent. No matter how hard she would try, she couldn't fly anymore.

Loki had kept an eye on Jack, making sure being inside didn't heat up the winter child too much. He also tried to mend the break in the staff, but nothing worked. Something was wrong. Even with the pieces lined up, he couldn't get any magic to flow between the two pieces. He never was as well versed in the frosted Jötunn magic, not any mending spells, but he tried. His last shot was Jack repairing it himself, however that required him to actually be conscience. He frowned as he suppressed the ever growing worry for the boy. He should have woken up at this point. He looked over to Baby Tooth who helplessly shrugged her shoulders. Neither knew how to wake up the winter spirit, all the conventional methods have failed.

Loki looked outside where a light snowfall was covering the forest in a fluffy white blanket. Jack would have loved to go out and have a snowball fight, had he been- He cut off the train of thought as he got up and went to the door. He stepped out and gathered an ample amount of snow, packed into a sizeable ball. Baby Tooth chirped at him and tried to flutter closer as Loki walked in with the snow, holding it right above Jack.

He gave the small fairy a slightly mischievous look and shrugged. "If this doesn't work, at least we tried." He let the ball fall, straight into the winter child's face.

Jack groaned a little but nothing much changed about his predicament. Baby Tooth climbed up to brush the snow off of Jack

before his clothes would get soaked. She looked at Loki and tweeted angrily. Loki rolled his eyes and held his hand out for Baby Tooth to climb onto.

He placed her onto his shoulder again and threw Jack's limp body over the other. Baby Tooth tried to push his cheek with all her might, trying to make the trickster put the younger back down. Loki ignored the futile attempt and made his way outside. Shocked by the difference in temperature, the little fairy used Loki's hair as a make shift blanket to shield her from the freezing winds.

Loki set out to find a large enough snowbank before he threw Jack in it, his body completely disappearing in the snow. Baby Tooth tweeted out in anger at the rough handling of Jack, now punching and kicking the man's cheek. Loki rolled his eyes as he pushed her away. "Will you stop that. He is bound to rise soon."

Jack's head shot up out of the snow, uncertain who just attacked but ready to fight. Of course he was a bit too quick to move and almost fell right on his face. Though they can't interact like they used to, Wind still managed to push her favorite immortal back up. Jack looked around confused. "Where am I? What- Baby Tooth! Are you okay?!" He yelled as he rushed over to the flightless fairy and picked her up from Loki's shoulder. Giving her a quick one over to make sure she is okay, he pressed the fairy to his cheek in an attempt to hug the small being. Baby Tooth squeaked and pushed herself away from the boy's freezing cheek and let out a small sneeze as she shivered in the cold.

Jack looked solemnly and placed her back on Loki's shoulder where she quickly dove back in her unofficial blanket. "Sorry, all I can do is keep you cold." He shrugged as he looked down. He really felt like he was useless. He couldn't save Easter, nor could he beat Pitch in a fight, and he can't even keep Baby Tooth safe in the harsh winter weather.

Loki noticed Jack was upset about the passed events. He wouldn't admit it out loud, but seeing the teen in front of him sad unnerved him. Jack and sad do not mix. He would do just about anything to keep the younger from feeling down too long. He smirked as he picked up a heap of snow and threw it at Jack. "Welcome back to

the land of the living, sleeping beauty."

Jack let out an indignant cry as the snow hit him in the back of his head. He turned and chuckled as he saw Loki holding up another pair of snowballs and threw it at the younger. "Hey, what's that for?" He asked as he started gathering his own snow.

Loki had to dodge a ball or two before he could actually answer. "For ignoring my heroic return and saving the both of you." Jack paused mid throw and looked at the older. "Wait, you actually came back for us?"

Loki hid his hurt under an overdramatized act of shock. "I'll have you know that I came back the soonest I could and brought you to my abode. Did you really think I would leave you there?" Had he underestimated his friendship with the spirit? Had he invested his time and effort into something he would grow to regret again?

Jack shrugged as he held onto his arm, avoiding eye contact with the frost giant. "Well," he started unsure, "I would have thought you'd go try stab Pitch first for trying to hurt me before coming back." He really felt like an ass for acting so shocked Loki came back to help them. He should have just asked Baby Tooth in private what happened, less to upset the man that had saved the both of them. It wasn't even Loki's fight to begin with, yet he put himself in danger just for him.

Loki subtly released the breath he didn't realize he was holding. The boy simply thought his love for stabbing the annoying was of a higher priority than himself. He placed a hand on the boy's shoulder and did his best to ignore his skin turning blue from the freezing touch. "Pitch will get the dagger he deserves at a later time, but, if something would have happened to you that I could have prevented I would not be able to forgive myself. Who else is to help me come up with tricks to fool the big oaf and his friends? And neither you, nor Toothiana would have let me live were something to become of your little friend here." He slightly lifted his shoulder where Baby Tooth was watching Jack.

Jack chuckled a little as he found it in himself to smile. "Aww you do care. Can't wait for Thor to hear about your heroic deeds. He

might let you join the Avengers if you keep it up." Loki's smile turned into a playful glare. "Don't you dare tell my brother of this! He will try to get me to go on quests with the warriors three and Lady Sif again. I already know that will simply end with Lady Sif trying to impale me with her sword for cutting her hair."

Jack laughed and imitated Lady Sif stabbing him as Loki stared dryly at the boy, tempted to give him a push to land him back in the snow bank he came from.

"Is this the thanks I get for waking you up?" Loki cried indignantly. Jack paused his mockery of Loki and side eyed him. "That's how I ended up in the snow? You threw me in there, didn't you?!" Jack threw a snowball at the trickster, standing proudly with an all telling smirk. "I do believe that humans these days call it 'yeeting'." Loki laughed and dodged another barrage of snowballs as Jack yelled out in playful anger. Loki fired back with a few of his own before using a bit of Jötunn magic to make the ground under Jack's feet turn to ice. Jack fell backwards and got hit in the face with his own ammo. Both men burst out in a lit of laughter.

Jack sobered up as Baby Tooth let out another sneeze. "Maybe we should head back inside before somebody ends up with a cold."

He followed Loki as they walked back to his place, lucky for Baby Tooth it wasn't far. They approached a rundown shack that looked like it was about to fall apart. "Um, Loki, no offence but this place doesn't look safe at all. I thought you had a massive house and stuff." Loki scoffed and pushed open an unseen door. Jack looked on in awe as the broken shack opened into a large living room with a gorgeous lit fireplace. Loki laughed at the spirit's expression and sat down in an armchair. Baby Tooth crawled off of his shoulder and went to sit closer to the fireplace. "Tis what we call and illusion dear boy."

Jack looked around, impressed by the various decorations that looked like they came from the different realms Loki had told him of. He felt a bit uneasy, still not knowing where his staff was. Last he knew, Pitch had snapped it in two but what become of it he didn't know.

Loki saw Jack looking around and with a helpful impression of Baby Tooth holding a toothpick, he got up and retrieved a chest. "I found your staff next to you down in a crevasse." He set it on the table with an audible thud. "I suppose Pitch had snapped it and tried to mend it myself but none of my spells worked." He pulled out the carefully wrapped pieces and handed them to Jack.

Jack accepted the pieces with a saddened look. He still felt like he was burning on the inside, as if not just his staff, but a piece of himself had been broken. As Loki and Baby Tooth looked on, he tried to put the pieces back together. He focused on making his magic flow between the pieces but it didn't work. He tried and tried but each time, they would fall apart again. Helplessly he looked up at Loki and Baby Tooth, hoping for guidance. "It won't work. Why won't it work? What am I doing wrong?" He became increasingly upset as the kept trying to force the pieces together in a futile attempt to restore his staff.

Loki stepped in and stopped Jack from ramming the pieces together. "Getting angry won't fix anything, Jack. You need to calm down." Jack let his arms hang slack in Loki's grip, letting the pieces of his staff drop to the floor. He looked away deflated, not wanting to face the elder. "Pitch was right. I make a mess of everything. I got you into this mess, Baby Tooth got hurt because of me, and now I can't even do the one job I knew to do my whole life because my staff broke. Who is going to bring winter to the world now? Who will keep the blizzards under control? Who-"

"Jack, listen to me." Loki interrupted as he forced Jack to look at him. "Pitch is an idiot. The only reason why he might be right is because he is the one who broke your staff. He made you lose your connection to winter. But who is he to say that you have no use? He underestimated you in your first battle and then lured you away from the guardians to secure his win. After that he just used you against yourself. He knows he can't face you head on so he broke the thing that was the biggest threat to him. You need to pick yourself up and find a way to fix it. Show the blasted fool he should not underestimate *the* Jack Frost ever again."

Jack looked up and, to Loki's surprise, hugged the god. "Thanks Loki, I really needed that." He said as he pulled away. "I'm sure

Thor would agree that you are a great motivational speaker." He laughed as Loki glared at him.

"Not a *word*, Frost."

Chapter 5

A few days had passed since the incident in Antarctica.

Baby Tooth had developed a cold, they suspected t had something to do with the lack of believers as she was growing weaker each day. The only thing that had improved were her winds. Jack had made splints for them so they would heal back in the correct way after Pitch had bent them.

Loki had been delving into the magic books and artifacts he had in his possession, trying to find something that would fix Jack's staff. Truly, he didn't want to give up, but after days of futile attempts it was becoming hard.

Jack seemed to already have given up. He did try when Loki told him to try something, but he stopped trying himself. He would sit by Loki, trying to understand the books, or tend to Baby Tooth, but other than that he felt useless. He couldn't control winter so he couldn't spread snow like he used to, nor going he go for a relaxing flight with Wind. Without his staff, wind had a hard time connecting with him like they used to. So Jack ended up on aimless walks when it got too hot or stuffy inside. Rather than forcing the others in cold, he set out on his own until he felt ready to return. Loki had warned against going on his walks alone. Without his staff he was practically defenseless against danger, especially against Nightmares. The god of Mischief made Jack promise to carry at least one of his daggers when he went out so he could at least have a fighting chance.

That is where he was now. Walking through the woods. It had started to snow and though there was no merit to it, Jack wanted to be outside.

Out where the wind would try to cheer him up by blowing snow at him.

Out where he wasn't constantly confronted with the failure of his

broken staff and sick friend.

He walked until he came across a small town he had come across earlier. Never before had he dared go inside, but he felt like he had to. With an extra nudge from wind, Jack made his way through the town. He didn't understand much of the language, but it was like the whole town was in a doom and gloom mood. The adults seemed easily agitated and the children almost lifeless, silently trailing behind their parents.

Jack was very confused. It was the perfect weather for a snow day, there should have been laughter and snowballs flying through the air. But there was none of that. Not a single child that had even tried to throw the snow. What was supposed to be a day full of fun for all ages bad boiled down to nothing but misery. Something about the town made him feel uneasy and scared. It felt like he was back at Pitch's lair, but more subtle.

The longer he stayed, the more he felt like he had to get out. He had to run from there as fast as he could before whatever happened there, happened to him as well.

He raced back to Loki's home and burst through the door, slamming it shut as if he was being chased. Loki jumped up from where he was sitting, ready to defend his home at the slightest sign of danger. "Jack! What happened? Were you attacked?"

Jack tried to even out his breathing as he eased Loki out of his defensive stance. "No, no attack. There was this town. Everybody was so...*miserable*. It's supposed to be a snow day. But there were no playing children, no sledding, no snowball fights, nothing! Something is wrong, I'm sure of it. We need to do something!" He was getting more and more worried about the towns people. Is this what the whole worlds looks like? Is this because of Pitch?

Jack looked up when Baby Tooth tweeted weakly at him. Jack ran over and lifted her up. With all the strength she could muster she pointed at Jack's head and then to Loki's pocket. "I think she means the memory box I gave you." Jack reiterated for her. Loki dig in the chest he had placed Jack's staff in and pulled out the golden canister.

Jack set Baby Tooth down and put the canister next to her. "Alright Baby Tooth, what now." Baby Tooth reached out to the canister and it glowed a golden color.

"*Jack?"*

Jack set up, looking shocked at the canister.

"*Jack?!"*

"That voice," he whispered, looking at Baby Tooth and Loki, "do you hear that voice too?"

Both Loki and Baby Tooth shook their heads no. "Don't start going crazy on me, kid." Loki said.

Jack got up defensively. "I heard a voice! The same voice I heard before going into Pitch's lair! It's calling for me, calling my name!" He looked back at Baby Tooth. She looked at him expectantly as he went to sit back down with her. Jack picked up the fairy and the canister. Baby Tooth placed her hand on the cover and nodded encouragingly at Jack. As he placed his fingers on the lid, his eyes started to glow the same golden hue as the canister did.

Loki freaked out a bit and looked at the small fairy. "What's happening to him?" He almost demanded but got noting but tweets in reply. He didn't have time to question more as jack's eyes stopped glowing and he shot up, picking up Baby Tooth as he did.

"Did you s-did you see that?" He asked excitedly. Both shook their heads no as Jack chuckled again. "It-it was me! I had a *family*! I had a *sister! I saved her!*" Realization hit him as he went over his memories again. "Wha-That's why he chose me" He breathed as he looked out to the clear full moon shining outside, "I'm...I'm a guardian."

Jack ran over to Loki's study and looked though all the books and scrolls he could get his hands on. "Glad you got your memories back, but does that mean you have to trash the place?" Loki tried his best to catch all the documents Jack threw out of his way.

"We need to find a way to beat Pitch! To fix my staff! The kids,

they...they need me." He said solemnly as his search was leading him nowhere. After all these failed attempts of restoring his staff, and now finding out why he was meant to be a guardian, he needed to prove to himself he was still worthy of the title. "I'm supposed to protect them, keep them safe from danger. But all I have been doing is hide out here, throwing a pity party for myself! I can't just sit here anymore, Loki! I need to get out there and fight, no matter how small my chances may be!" Without waiting for a reaction Jack stormed out of the room and grabbed the pieces of his staff.

"Jack, you already tried that and it didn't-woa"

Jack forced the pieces back together and forced the magic to move through the wood. He thought of how badly he wanted to fight Pitch, how he wanted to protect the children, how he had to fight and make his sister proud of who he became. As he was focusing, a spark of blue came from the splintered ends. Frost patterns flew out from the spark and traveled back out to each end of the wood, once again decorating the staff with intricate designs. Jack smiled and jumped in the air as he felt his magic seep back into the wood and his connection to winter come back. He felt whole again.

He laughed as he rushed outside, where he was promptly picked up and tossed around by the wind. As he landed again, he let Baby Tooth run across his arm from Loki's shoulder to his own. Looking at the elder he smirked mischievously. "What do you say, Loki? Ready to have some fun?"

The god of mischief matched his smirk and materialized his daggers. "Ready when you are, Frosti."

"We need to find out how many children still believe. Knowing how much Pitch loves to gloat over victories, he'll likely be at the Pole. Think you can get us into his lair?"

At Loki's nod, Jack was about to speak up when Baby Tooth let out a frustrated tweet. She huffed and planted herself firmly on Jack's shoulder. The boy signed and picked up the little fairy. "Baby Tooth, I can't take you with us. You are still sick and you can't fly. You'd be in too much danger. It's safer for you to stay here until we're ba- AUW" Jack cried out as Baby Tooth stabbed his hand

lightly. She tweeted angrily before climbing back up to his shoulder and setting herself down in defiance.

"I don't think you can talk her out of this." Loki remarked. "I'd say let the bird-child come, she might be of use to us."

Jack sighed as he looked at her. "You sure you want to go back there? All the other fairies are still in cages." Baby Tooth nodded, causing Jack to slump his shoulders in defeat.

Loki teleported them to Pitch's lair, and as Jack suspected, it was empty except for the bird cages filled with little tooth fairies. Jack flew up to one of the cages and unlocked the door. "Let's go." Before he jumped off to the next one, he saw none were flying off. "What's wrong?" He asked them, but none replied.

Baby Tooth walked off of his shoulder and went to stand on the hand holding the cage. She tweeted a little and tried to flutter her wings to no avail. Jack's eyes widened in horror as he realized none of the fairies could fly. Baby Tooth pointed behind Jack, where he could see the corner of another room.

In the middle of the room stood a black metallic version of North's globe back at the Pole. Jack looked all over, looking for a light to be on, but there was none. He felt his newfound hope shatter to pieces as fell to the ground in defeat. "The lights...We're too late, there aren't any children left who believe in the guardians anymore." He curled into a ball and apologized profusely to Baby Tooth who tried to calm him down.

Loki looked over the globe himself, surely Jack must be mistaken. From what he had been told, no believers means the end of their existence. Since the bird-child was still here there had to be at least one. He scanned every continent as something caught his eye. Bingo.

"Jack," He called out, "there is still one. But it's dim and blinking." Jack looked up to where his friend was pointing and jumped up onto the globe. He looked at the little light. It was very dim, and flickering, but it was there. One child who still believed. "Jamie!" He cried out as he jumped off. "I know where to go!"

Loki got ready to teleport them to wherever Jack told them but Baby Tooth stepped away. He looked at her quizzingly as she pointed to one of the shadowy corridors. Every now and then they could hear a tweet or two coming from that direction. Jack crouched down beside her with an understanding smile. "Your sisters are there, aren't they?" Baby Tooth nodded. Jack stood back up and went to stand back next to the trickster. "Don't get caught again, okay? I trust you." Baby Tooth nodded eagerly as she started to make her way to the other room.

Jack shared one last look with Loki before he teleported them to a certain child's bedroom.

Chapter 6

In their rush to get to Jamie's house, they had forgotten to discuss what to do once they got there. So now there were and invisible teen and an adult man in a sleeping child's room. There was a dark feeling to the air as nightmare sand dusted the room. Jamie laid tossing in his bed, likely having a nightmare.

Loki looked over at Jack, hoping the teen had a plan. Jack just shrugged helplessly. "I didn't think we'd get this far. Kid can't see me but he can see you. Do something!"

Loki face palmed, questioning himself and the decision to join on this quest. He looked around in the room, spotting a drawing of the boy sledding. Raising a brow, he looked at Jack and jabbed his thumb at the picture. Jack laughed sheepishly and rubbed his neck. "Yeah...That was an accident. He lost his tooth afterwards when the sofa crashed into him."

Loki fought the urge to face palm again, opting to just roll his eyes. His gaze fell on a stuffed bunny that had fallen to the ground. He smirked as he picked it up and threw it on Jamie with a little bit more force than would have been necessary. Jack glared at Loki as the man raised his shoulders nonchalantly.

Jamie groaned awake and shot up as he saw Loki leaning against his desk. He blinked and rubbed his eyes. "Is this still a nightmare or is Loki actually sitting at my desk?" He asked to nobody in particular.

Loki crossed his arms and scoffed slightly. "I'm flattered but no, I am here." Jamie looked at him in disbelief, and spotted the bunny on his bed. "Did you throw this at me?" He asked as he lifted up the stuffed animal. The trickster smirked proudly and nodded.

Jamie side eyed the god of mischief as he set the bunny back down next to his pillow. "Okay so you are real and here. But why? Are you going to control my mind like you did with he people in New

York? Are you going to take me prisoner? Feed me to Fenrir? Send me to Muspelheim? Or maybe Jöten-"

"Stop your blabbering child. How do you know of the other realms, or the beast Fenrir?" Loki interrupted. This child knew more than some of the children on Asgard. Maybe that is why Jack had taken a liking to the boy.

Jack was getting a little frustrated at the change of topic. He needs Jamie to believe in the guardians, not discuss the ways Loki could torture him. Jack looked on to the window and got an idea. He started to freeze the glass, frost growing ever to intricately.

Jamie pointed at his freezing window and stared at Loki. "Are you doing that?" He asked. Loki looked at Jack who was entraining himself by drawing on the frosted windows. He couldn't do much without looking like he lost him mind. "Of course not, foolish boy. I am the god of Mischief, not of frozen windows." He scoffed.

Jamie looked at the window, it had fully frosted over and the frost was spreading to the other panels. "Hey, you could still do it with that frost giant magic of yours. Don't you have some ice magic?" Loki froze. How did this human child know so much of him, more than he had known a few years prior. Was he a mage who could see into the past? A witch perhaps? He turned to Jamie, anger slightly showing in his expressions. "How do you know of that, child?! Who has told you of this?" He really had to hold in from yelling to the child, Jack would surely freeze him if he went too far.

Jamie just shrugged his shoulders and pulled out a book from underneath his bed. "It was in this book. It's all about the legends from different ages. You are in the one of Norse Mythology. Thor too, as well as other people."

As Jamie kept explaining it, and Loki having to silently deal with the identity crisis this book had brought upon him, Jack angrily cleared his throat. "Loki, come on. He needs to believe in the guardians. You can read the stories later. Fate of the world at stake here."

Loki snapped out of his daze and focused back on Jamie. "So you

believe in these tales?" Jamie jumped up a bit in excitement, barely believing he gets to talk to an actual god. "Of course I do, living proof standing right here in my bedroom! How could I possibly not believe in you?" Loki nodded as he took the book and looked for a section about the guardians. "What about the other tales in this book? Do you believe in these as well?" He sneaked a wink at Jack, who understood where Loki was going.

Jamie frowned as he looked at the pages about the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy. "I don't know," he sighed, "I mean, I not sure but I had this dream where I saw them? It could have been real, but I'm not so sure. And I really believed in them, I swear! My Sister even said she was with the Easter Bunny and painted eggs with him and a fairy! But then Easter came, and nothing happened. My friend, he lost a tooth, and the tooth fairy never showed up to take it. And then the nightmares started. First my friends and then me. I really thought they would be real, but now I really don't know what to believe..." Jamie trailed off as he finished, looking down at his hands.

Loki watched as Jack drew on the frosted windows. Thor's hammer, Loki's helmet, and currently drawing an egg. He went to sit on the foot end of the bed and laid back, leaning on his elbows. "What if I told you they were real?" Peaking Jamie's interest, he nodded to the windows where he watched in fascination as a decorated egg appeared drawn on his window. He looked back at Loki and pointed threateningly at him. "You swear you're not pulling some trick?"

Loki smirked but kept watching as Jack started to draw a bunny. "Feisty, but no, I have no doing in this. A friend of mine is the mastermind behind this." Jamie looked back at the window just in time to see Jack finish the bunny and pull it out of the frosting. The ice bunny jumped around Jamie's room as he tried to chase it from his bed. The little bunny jumped up in circles and exploded into a puff of snow as it reached the ceiling.

As the snowflakes fell down, Jamie caught one on the tip of his nose. "Snow?" He wondered out loud. Realization hit him as Loki's words repeated in his mind.

What if they are real

A friend of his did this

A legend that makes snow?

"Jack Frost."

Jack was marveling at his own creation when Jamie threw him off guard. He looked over at Loki, hoping he would confirm if he head it wrong or not. "Did he just say..." He trailed off as Loki smirked at him.

"Jack Frost?" Jamie repeated as he started to look around his room.

Jack was starting to freak out. "He just said it again. He said-" Jack's breathing started to speed up as he couldn't believe what he was hearing. Loki was all but laughing at the reaction of his young friend. "Yuuuup." He chuckled, very much enjoying the tiny crisis Jack found himself in.

Jack looked straight at Jamie as the child had almost turned fully to him. "You said.." He breathed as Jamie's eyes finally laid upon him, mouth agape. "Jack Frost." He repeated a third time as he finally started at the winter spirit.

"That's right," Jack grabbed his head, still barely believing what was happening, "B-but that's me! Jack Frost!" He stepped back a bit, almost like he was telling himself who he was. "That's my name! You said my name!" He walked back closer to Jamie's shocked figure.

Loki had conjured up some popcorn and was very much enjoying this little crisis as Jack only just realized that Jamie can actually see and hear him. His bark of laughter went unnoticed by the youngest two.

Jack laughed in joyous disbelief as Jamie acknowledged to hearing and seeing him. "He sees me," he said to nobody in particular, "he-he sees me!" He cried out in joy as he backflipped onto Jamie's desk.

Jamie jumped over Loki's laughing figure to be closer to the newly revealed spirit in his room.

"You just make it snow!"

"I know."

"*In my room!"*

"I know!"

"You're re real?!" Jamie asked in confirmation as Jack jumped off the desk and ran to the window. "Yeah! Who do you think brings you all the blizzards and the snow days?" Jack asked the child, freaking out that he finally has a child who believes in him, a child who can see him. He caught eye of the drawing again, and in his excitement he kept on rambling. "And you remember ow you went flying on the sled the other day?" He felt elevated knowing he could finally talk with a child, his first believer!

"That was you?!" Jamie halfway shrieked in shock. Jack had been there all his life and he had never known! Did that mean the others were real too?

"That was me!" He cried out again. It felt impossible for him to stand still, walking around the entire time.

Jamie jumped on his bed, narrowly missing landing on Loki who spilled some of his popcorn as he oved out of the danger zone. "What about the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy? I mean, what about-"

"Didn't I already tell you-" Loki too was interrupted, still ignored by the hyperactive younglings.

"Real, real, real! All of us are real!"

Jamie jumped up on hid bed even more excited than before. "I knew it!" He exclaimed before quickly calming down as his mother called him. "Jamie, who are you talking to?"

Jamie panicked a little and looked at Jack, who casually shrugged and nodded at the door. "Um, Jack Frost?" He called back, unsure if it would work. He relaxed as he heard his mother chuckle an 'okay'. The youngsters in the room laughed off their nerves, happy she

didn't walk in to see Loki chilling in her child's bed.

They all shot up as the windows flew open, an unnatural looking storm brewing outside. Jack ran to the window as the jingles of sleigh bells filled the air and jumped out. Loki and Jaimie ran outside, luckily unseen by Jamie's mother, to see a banged up sleigh crash down and break apart on touchdown. The reindeer ran off as North called after them. "Ah, moi deti! Come back!" The weakened Cossack tried to pull himself up as next to him, Tooth flew up. She looked to have lost quite some feathers and shrunk a little in size, wings laying flat to her back. She did her best to support North but could barely hold his weight. "North, are you okay?"

North fell back slightly as he tried to balance himself in the unstable sleigh. He looked like he had aged a few decades since Jack had last seen the man. "Iz official. My powers are kaput." Right as he finished, the sleigh confirmed his statement by promptly breaking through the bearings. Tooth let North fall as she caught sight of Jack. "Look! Jack!" She pointed as she tried to fly over to him, emphasis on tried. The weakened fairy fell as her wings didn't have the power to support her flight anymore.

Jack walked over to help her get up as she dusted herself off. "You okay?" Tooth backed off a little, trying to fix what was left of her crown feathers as North approached. In his weakened state, he relied on his sword as a crutch. "Vat are you doing here?" North questioned with a raised brown.

Jack smiled as he looked behind him to see Jamie rush out of the house while Loki approached at a much slower pace. "Same as you."

"The last light." North tried to stand tall as he laid eyes on Jamie.

Jamie rushed over to North and stared up at him in awe. "Woa, it is you. I mean it is you!" He said as he looked over North and Tooth, North even let him touch his hand without any question. Excitedly he turned back to Jack and the approaching Loki. "I knew it wasn't a dream!" Only Jack picked up on Loki's sarcastic chuckle. "Sure, child."

North and Tooth looked up in wonder and excitement to Jack as

Jamie has spoken directly to him. "Jack. He *sees* you." Jack put a protective hand on Jamie's shoulder as Loki finally decided to join up with the others. Before any could question his presence, Jack interjected. "Wait, where is Bunny?"

North looked solemnly at the ground as he turned to his sleigh, sparing a glance at Tooth as he did so. "Losing Easter took its toll on all of us. Bunny most of all." As if on cue, a small bunny jumped on the railing of the sleigh. Loki snorted as Jack breathed out. "Oh no."

Jamie chuckled freely as he walked over to Bunny. "*That's* the Easter Bunny?" He asked almost mockingly, thinking Loki was pulling a trick on him. Aster, however, didn't take kindly to the slight mockery. "Now somebody sees me! I mean, whe-where were you about an hour ago, mate?" He said grumpily as he raised to his hind legs, not making much difference in his height. North and Jack shared a look at his antics. Same old Bunny, just a smaller size.

"What happened to him?" Jamie asked the group. "He used to be huge and cool, and now he's...cute." Jamie started to scratch Bunny's cheek, much to the enjoyment of Aster. Once he noticed he started tapping his foot, he pawed away Jamie's hand. In his frustration, he turned to Jack. "Did you tell him to say that?" He charged to Jack, scratched his leg and got ready to fight the now towering spirit. "That's it. Let's go. Me and you. Come on!" Before Jack even had a chance to react, Loki finally burst out laughing.

For the first time, the guardians actually noticed his presence and got into fighting positions. This, however only made him laugh even more. "Oh this is good! They always said you were supposed to bring fear to evil and protect the children! Now look at you, just a poor bunch of weaklings!" Loki only laughed a bit less eccentric after getting an elbow in the robs from Jack. "Loki, that isn't nice." He scolded. Loki only mock bowed in half hearted forgiveness. "Sorry Snowflake, but it is rather entertaining that these people are held to higher regards than me."

Bunny turned his aggression to Loki as he pointed his fluffy paw in an attempt to look threatening. "Aren't you the bloke that tried to destroy New York?" Loki laughed as he bend down and pet between Bunny's ears. "Aren't you supposed to be a warrior, rabbit?" Bunny

scratched at Loki's hands as he tried to claw at the man's face. "Come a little closer, ya show pony! I'll show you what a warrior I am before I let you take the child!"

Jamie stepped in to defuse the situation. "No actually, Jack and him told me you were real. Just when I started thinking that maybe you weren't." Bunny looked incredulously at the god. "This guy? This one, right here, made you believe? In me?" Bunny was shocked at the information he had to process.

It almost seemed like Bunny was going to thank them before a loud clap of thunder and lightning scared them.

Chapter 7

They looked up to find the source of the unnatural storm. Pitch was standing on a cloud of nightmare sand, laughing down at them.

Jack got ready to take off as he ordered the other guardians. "Get Jamie out of here." He too off towards the angered Boogeyman. North shouted a warning of caution before he ushered the others way from the upcoming battle. Loki wasn't sure whether he should follow Saint Nick or stay to keep an eye on Jack. He feared a repeat of their last battle as he saw Pitch prepare for a head on collision with the boy.

Pitch watched annoyedly as Jack shot up, headed straight for him. "Jack Frost." He growled out as he wrapped himself up in his nightmare sand and propelled himself towards the winter spirit. "Let's end this shall we!" As he came closer, they both slowed down.

Jack fired off his strongest attack, hoping it would work like it did the first time. Unfortunately for him, it did absolutely nothing as Pitch simply blocked the attack with his hands. "That little trick doesn't work on me anymore!" The nightmare king yelled out as he commanded the sand to shoot out from behind him and attack Jack.

Weakened by the powerful blast he had sent to Pitch, Jack had no energy left to block the onslaught of sand and fell out of the sky. Loki watched as the boy fell and rushed to follow him. As Jack was nearing the ground, Loki teleported himself up and curled around the winter spirit, taking the brunt of the fall. They first hit a roof and then onto a trashcan before hitting the ground and splitting apart. Jack rolled a bit further than Loki as his's staff was knocked out of his hand.

Luckily for them, they had fallen right were the guardians were trying to hide Jamie. "Jack!" Jamie cried out as he rushed over to the teen. Loki groaned from a bit further as he tried to stand up. "Loki!" He mock yelled. "Thank you for risking yourself to catch Jack!" He meant to say to himself, but Jamie and the guardians

heard. They winced a little as Jamie and Tooth helped Jack stand. North stood between the pair as Loki joined the others. "Was good try Jack! A for effort!" He encouraged as he slapped both men on the back, causing each of them to almost fall were it not for Tooth and Jamie. Jack tried to catch his breath as he looked up at the guardians. "He's stronger, I can't beat him."

Thunder boomed above them as Pitch had found them again. He laughed maniacally as his shadow travelled across the alley they were in. Jack jumped for his staff and got up as the others formed a protective circle around Jamie. "All this fuss over one little boy, and still he refuses to stop believing." Pitch's shadow rode one of his nightmares as it moved from wall to wall, circling them as a predator would their prey.

"Very well." Pitch's echoing voice said as it bounced between the walls. The shadow glided over to where streetlights were attacked to the outer sides of the buildings. "There are other ways to snuff out a light." He threatened as he broke each light one by one.

The guardians' circle around Jamie tightened as Loki placed himself in front of Jack, placing both youngest boys in the middle. Bunny stepped forward, daring the shadow form to attack him. "If you want him you're gonna have to go through me." A giant shadow hand appeared on the ground, reaching out to Bunny. Pitch's voice echoed a gasp as his shadow tried to pet Bunny. "Look how fluffy you are. Would you like a scratch behind the ears?" The voice babied as Bunny ran off in fear. The once massive warrior jumped up into North's waiting hand. "*Don't* you even think about it!" Bunny attempted to seem threatening, but his cutesy appearance did him no good.

Between parked trucks, 3 nightmares started to enter the alley. The guardians stepped back, trying to get distance between them and the horses. "I can't tell you how happy it makes me feel to see you all like this." Pitch materialized on a forth horse and rode into the alley. "You look awful." He said as he was in full view of the guardians. Haunting neighs filled the air as the shadows extended, reaching out to them.

Loki glanced at Jack and Pitch. He could just teleport out of there

as the wannabe god was distracted with getting Jamie, forget he ever got into this doomsday mess in the first place. But he couldn't do that to Jack. They wouldn't stand a chance. Even with him there they wouldn't last long.

Jack himself was tempted to ask Loki to teleport them out, but he was sure the man wouldn't handle all of them for a long distance placement. He had to find another way to get out. To get Jamie to safety. "Jack?" Jamie's voice pulled him out of his thoughts. "I'm scared." The boy confessed. Jack bent down to eye level as he tried to find the right words to say. He had a bad feeling of déjà vu as his memory of his sister flooded back in. "Don't worry," he said as a smile broke out on his face, having found his center after all this time, "we're gonna have a little fun instead." Jamie looked at him confused, but didn't have much time to question it as Pitch moved closer again.

"So what do you think, Jamie?" He laughed at the fearful looks on everybody's faces. "Do you *believe* in the Boogeym-AH" Pitch yelled out as he was hit back by a snowball straight to the face. Jamie's laugh cut through the tension as the others laughed with him. Jack was tossing another ball in his hand, the obvious culprit to the sudden attack. He spotted the lids of trash cans and got an amazing idea. He turned back to Jamie in all seriousness. "Now let's go get your friends."

Pitch was wiping the snow off of his face as a track of ice appeared between his nightmares, forcing them to part. He knew Jack had used the snow as a distraction to get out, but it didn't matter. The fool had left a trace of where they were going.

As they were sledding through the streets of Burgess, Jack led the way by covering the entire street in ice. The hoard of sledders passed a man walking his dog at night, scaring the poor man. For all he could see was ice appearing, Jamie sledding on a broken ladder, followed by another few pieces of would be sleighs and at the very end, was Loki himself. Of course he had not lowered himself to sitting on a piece of wood or a bin lid. Oh no, with a bit

of creativity from Jack, they had sculpted an ice throne fit for his dramatic flair. And of course Jamie had insisted on a pair of sunglasses, or rather, iceglasses.

Jack build up a whole roller coaster course for them to sled on as they went from house to house. He had thrown a snowball at Cupcake, making it snow in her room. Without much hesitation, she joined in on the track. The same thing happened as they went to Pippa's house. She freaked out as she saw Jamie flying by her window. She rushed over to open the window. "Jamie, how are you doing that?" She questioned, hoping to find some strings.

Jamie laughed as he pointed at his back. "Jack Frost! Come on! We need your help!" He yelled out as Jack carried him off. As a snowflake landed on her nose, she too could see the winter teen holding up her friend. She gasped out in amazement. "Hey, is that-" "Jack Frost!" Monty yelled out to her from across the street as he struggled to get dressed to follow them.

Caleb and Claude, too, were woken up by the sudden indoor snow. As they were admiring the frozen miracle, presents fell out of the air onto their beds. They gasped out and ran to the window as they heard a voice yell from outside. "Merry Christmas!" North yelled as he passed by their house, waving at the children. Bunny followed suit, a shaky "Happy Easter!" wished to the children. In true tooth fairy fashion, Tooth yelled out a reminder to floss. Behind the living fairytales, Loki's ice-throne followed, the twins looked on confused as the god nodded at them and threw up a peace sign. They didn't have much time to question it as Cupcake's joyful screams were following up the convoy, soon followed by their other friends as well.

The children follows the tracks as they all screamed out in joy, letting the whole town know of their belief in the guardians. That joy, however, didn't last long as Jack brought them to a halt. Pitch had caught up with them and blocked their way with a massive wave of nightmare sand all around. Monty, who had yet to notice, ran forward screaming joyfully, only to make a U-turn as he saw Pitch and his nightmare atop the rooftop. The Boogeyman sneezed down at them as his Nightmares destroyed lampposts in the background. "You think a few children will help you? Against this?"

As if on cue, the tidal wave of nightmares crashed down and came ever closer.

Though having Jamie's friends believe helped them slightly, North still failed to lift his sword, needing aide from Tooth and Jack to remain balanced. Jamie fearfully took a step forward, wanting to come to Santa's aide but not daring to. Jack noticed as he turned to the boy. "They're just bad dreams, Jamie." "And we'll protect you, mate." Bunny added on from the frontline.

Pitch cooed at the pathetic bunch down below. "Aww, you'll protect them?" He echoed a laugh as thunder rumbled within the storm behind him. "And who'll protect you? A criminal in the eyes of mankind?"

Loki paid no heed to the words and stepped out in front of the group, his favorite daggers in hand. Jack prepared to step up as well, only to be passed by Jamie who defiantly went to stand in front of the frost giant. "I will." Loki's stance faltered as he looked at the boy. "Are you mad, child?!" His question went unanswered as the rest of Jamie's friend stepped forward, even Monty, promising to do their duty to protect the guardians. Jamie shared a look with Loki and Jack, knowing that if Pitch broke though them, they stood no chance.

Pitch stood high and mighty on his horse as he sneered down, silently commanding his Nightmares to attack. "Still think there is no such thing as the Boogeyman?" The horses neighed as a wave of sand followed them, destroying everything in their wake.

As the danger neared, Jamie stood confidently, glaring at Pitch. "I do believe in you. I'm just not afraid of you." The wave of Nightmares raised high into the sky, focusing all their force onto Jamie. The boy simply held out his hand, and as the wave crashed down on him, the sand turned into a burst of gold. The golden sand travelled up the wave, turning all the nightmares into golden dust. Tendrils of golden sand flew though the air, spreading far and wide to any sleeping children. With the appearance of the gold sand, a wave of energy resonated though the air. Tooth cried out in joy as she felt her strength return, as well as her ability to fly. As the children cheered her on, North seemed to age backwards as he

regained the color in his face and thus the strength to easily lift his swords again.

Atop the rooftop, Pitch yelled out in displeasure and ordered more Nightmares to attack. "Do your jobs!" He yelled after them.

Bunny, who was still waiting for his glorious transformation, had to run as the Nightmares closed in on him to fast. Just as he had made it under a car, one of the mares got a hold of his tail and pulled him out. Much to the regret of the surrounding mares as Bunny had grown back to his preferred height. Bunny laughed at the shock on the mares' faces. "G'day mate." He stomped the mare on the mouth and jumped up, throwing out his boomerangs to destroy the sand creatures. As he landed, he smoothly caught his weapons again before opening tunnels and raising the egg golems from the Warren.

North pulled out two snow globes and brought in the Yeti forces along with the elves and some of his creations that flew through the portals. The children, seeing the magical creatures attack, charges at the Nightmares at well. At the smallest touch, the frightened mares turned into puffs of golden sand. Loki has been fighting with his daggers, finding the same mares who attacked him in the shadow realm had found him again. Unlike the others, his attackers kept reforming after a jab of his dagger. Jack noticed Loki's predicament and flew over to freeze one. "Use ice, then the can't reform until thawed."

Loki briefly thought back on everything he had been though the past week, from Jack coming to him upset, to going to Antarctica, and all the way to now, fighting the Boogeyman and his army of horses. Honestly, if he wasn't the god of mischief himself he would be sure somebody was messing with him. A week ago he wouldn't have thought of fighting in a battle against fear born creatures. A week ago he wouldn't have cast away his previous doubts and fears about his Jötunn magic. But now? Now he embraced it as he felt the familial cold spread through his body as he let his skin turn into true frost giant blue. He smirked as he reformed his daggers into iced ones and set to attack the Nightmares. Just as Jack had foretold, the mares froze and shattered into dust. Loki very much enjoyed seeing the piles of frozen dust around and set out to destroy as many as he could. Perhaps he was enjoying it a tat bit too much,

but those were worries for later.

Chapter 8

After leaving Loki's side, Jack flew up to the roof Pitch was hiding on. With a few well-placed ice blasts to the guarding nightmares, freezing them in place, he set Pitch off running. Jack tried and failed to hit Pitch with a blast and set off in a chase after him. Down below on the streets, Bunny and North set out to join the chase after the nightmare king. "All yours, mate." Bunny called after North after conjuring up a tunnel.

Pitch had led Jack into an attempted trap, throwing a stand spear much like the one he used on Sandy. Right as it was about to hit the winter child, Tooth flew passed and cut through the spear with her wings. Jack yelled out his thanks as she sliced through another sand creature.

Bunny jumped up from a chimney with a puff of soot. "Ho ho ho." At the last ho he threw his trusted boomerang and took out a pair of mares. North, however, made a slight miscalculation. "Wrong roof." He said slightly confused as he watched the battle from a roof across the street. He didn't have much free time as the other guardians had driven Pitch to flee once again. Unluckily for the Boogeyman, his escape was met with North's swords, causing him to fall to the ground.

Pitch had just enough time to conjure up a scythe as North went straight into attacking him again. Although he managed to disarm the Cossack, Bunny jumped in right on time, making himself the next target. Pitch swung a bit to hard as his scythe came stuck after missing Aster, giving the perfect opening to throw a boomerang. Pitch danced around the onslaught of attacks from Aster, Tooth and even Jack as he was made to back into a corner. "It's over Pitch. There's no place to hide."

In a moment of forgetfulness, they had pushed Pitch into a shadow cast corner. Using the shadows to his full potential, Pitch sank into them. His echoing laugh and shadow bouncing on the walls, making it hard for the guardians to locate the source. They were so

distracted that they didn't notice Pitch reemerging in the same place, preparing to swing at Jack. Bunny saw just in time and yelled out a warning, throwing a boomerang as well. The weapon bounced off of the scythe and Pitch nearly made contact with Jack. But the impact never came as a whip of golden sand wrapped itself around his arm.

The guardians scrambled to follow Pitch as he was being dragged atop a hill, towards a twister of golden sand. Pitch looked up in fear as the middle of the twister glowed brightly. In utter disbelief he stared on as Sanderson Mansnoozie himself emerged. The guardian of dreams pulled the nightmare king closer, mutely tutting disapprovingly. Still holding onto his dream sand whip, Sandy reeled back before uppercutting Pitch, sending him flying high into the sky.

"The sandman!" The children said as the arrived to the scene. Sandy turned to face them, creating a hat to tip in greeting. As Jamie saluted him, Sandy felt a slight tug on his whip. He pulled it down hard, letting it disappear as Pitch fell down with a bounce. The guardians cheered as North lifted Sandy in joy. "Mate, you are a sight for sore eyes." Bunny commented as he too greeted his old friend.

Jack saw Loki running to them, still pumped from the battle he was in. Jack laughed as he intercepted his friend. "Chill, Lokes, battle is over. And guess what! Sandy is back!" Jack jumped in joy as Loki calmed down. The mage let his skin return to a more suitable color and set his daggers away. He pouted slightly as he confirmed there were no more Nightmares around to destroy.

Sandy lifted up on a cloud of dream sand. Oncehe was high enough, he released a whole set of tendrils, sending dreams back tothe children with the intent of getting them to believe again.

Children all over the world regained their belief, strengthening each guardian, and thus their helpers as well. Baby Tooth felt her strength return as she watched the lights come back on. Without wasting a second, she flew up to the cages and unlocked them all.

The newly freed fairies rushed to the discarded tooth canisters below them and released each living child's memories, further strengthening their beliefs in the guardians and filling them with hope and wonder once again.

Gorgeous dream sand creatures filled the streets and skies of Burgess, spreading out in a diameter around Sandy as he spread his dreams.

The children looked on in awe as they interacted with the dream sand. Jamie almost got to pet a fish, before a certain winter spirit hit him with a snowball. He looked to Jack, who was bouncing another ball, a silent invite to a snowball fight. Jamie laughed as he gathered up enough snow for a ball and set it flying. Monty didn't dodge in time and fell back after getting hit. His friends all laughed and prepared their own ammo as they set out to attack.

As everybody was enjoying themselves, North approached Jack. He gestured to the fight and raised a knowing brow. "Your center?" Jack smiled, proud he had figured it out and seeing the effects of it right in front of them. "Well, it took a while. But I figured it out." North smiled back proudly and threw a tiny wooden figure, much like his own. Jack caught in and studied it, appreciation radiating off of him. North laughed and turned Jack around, pointing at a still skulking Loki just a bit away from the snowball fight.

Jack approached his friend, laughing at the elder's mood. "Come on, Loki. Everybody is having fun!" Loki scowled and crossed his arms. "I do not lower myself to such childish battles. They would not stand a chance against me." Jack simply laughed as he nudged his friend. "We both know that's not true. You love playing when you get to fight me." Loki's scowl deepened even more as he turned his head. "Well I am simply not in the mood, Frosti." Now it was Jack's turn to pout. "Aww, come on, you know I don't like that nickname. Jokul hated me from the moment he heard of my existence." Jack's scowl turned into a smirk as he noticed Jamie had rolled a snowball his way.

"You know," he started as he picked up the ball, "I bet I can beat

you with ease." Loki looked at him suspiciously and took a precautious step away. "Don't you dare, Jack. I will destro-" Loki was cut off by a well aimed snowball. He wiped off the snow from his face as Jack hysterically. Now it's on, the brat had asked for it. Loki smirked mischievously as he conjured up a small set of snowballs. Jack noticed just in time and knew that look meant trouble. As Loki chased him, Jack ran off screaming as his plan worked.

North laughed at Jack's antics. The boy really had earned his spot as the fifth guardian. He was brought out of his musing as he got hit in the back of the head. He turned to see Caleb and Claude, pointing at one of the elves. Saint Nick bellowed a laugh as he gathered up his own snowball. "You're all on naughty list!" He yelled out to them as he looked for his target. "Bunny! Think fast!" Aster didn't have enough time to dodge as he got hit straight in the face.

Pitch awoke to everybody having fun in their friendly battle, dream sand creatures passing him by without much care. Angrily, he stormed onto the battlefield. "You dare have fun in my presence. I am the Boogeyman!" He yelled out, catching Jack's attention. Pitch want straight for Jamie, trying to catch the playing child. "You *will* fear me!" But Jamie did not as he passed effortlessly though the nightmare king. Pitch cried out in disbelief, making sure he as still a solid to himself. He saw that the guardians looked on with pitying gazes. Before they could do anything, Pitch ran away into the forest.

Pitch ran all the way until he ran onto a frozen lake, fearfully watching behind him for if he were to be followed. This ended up being a fatal mistake, as he ran straight into North's belly and bounced off, landing on his ass on the ice. "Leaving the party soon?" The Cossack questioned as the others gathered behind him. Tooth fluttered in front of them, twirling a coin between her fingers. "You didn't even say goodbye." She threw it at him. "A quarter?" He questioned, looking up in time to see Tooth punch him square in the face. He fell back from the force at it set one of his teeth flying. "That's for my fairies." She said as she shook off the pain in her hand. Loki stepped forward and threw an ice dagger into his

shoulder. "Consider this a parting gift." He said, enjoying Pitch's pained cries a bit too much. Jack elbowed him slightly. "Loki, that wasn't nice." He scolded as the god simply raised his shoulders. "He deserved it and you said I could stab him."

Pitch stood up shaking in pain, grasping the freezing dagger. "You can't get rid of me!" He cried out. "Not forever! There will *always* be fear." His words held no threat as North casually blew him off. "So what? As long as one child believes, we will be here to fight fear." He said confidently, the rest backing up his claims.

"Really?" The defeated nightmare king questioned as he gestured to the shores of the pond. "Then what are *they* doing here?" Nightmares had gathered on the shoreline, surrounding the whole lake.

North let out a laugh, not at all intimidated by the creatures anymore. "They can't be my nightmares, I'm not afraid." A chorus of similar claims sounded from the others as Jack looked at Pitch triumphantly. "Looks like it's your fear they smell."

Pitch reeled back in fear as he realized it too. The nightmares grew restless and began their attack. Pitch tried in vain to run from his own creations as the sand engulfed him. They dragged him back to the same bed covered hole he lured Jack in. Desperately he tried to claw out of the force pulling him in ,but it was no use. As Pitch and the nightmares disappeared into the hole, it dragged in the tattered bedframe as well before closing itself up.

Clouds parted from the full moon as Tooth celebrated their victory by hugging Jack. Realizing what she did, she pulled away shyly and fluttered back over to North.

"Are you ready now, Jack?" Santa asked, "To make it official." Jack could already hear the grumpy music elves from before giving a silent threat. They will play their tunes, whether he likes it or not. Loki laughed as he conjured up his bucket of popcorn again. "Oh, this is gonna be good." He laughed as a yeti brought North a big, old book. "It is time you take oat." He stated as Jack smiled brightly. Everybody was there to witness it, even Jamie and his friends. Maybe best of all is that they left out the torches this time.

North opened the book and flipped through several pages before he landed on the correct one. "Will you, Jack Frost, vow to watch over the children of the world? To guard them with your life; their hopes, their wishes, and their dreams? For they are *all* that we have, *all* that we are and *all* that we will ever be." Jack looked back Loki, who just threw a few pieces of popcorn into his mouth. The winter child laughed as he looked at Jamie, who nodded encouragingly. Confidently, Jack turned back to North.

"I will."

North tried his best to hold in his joy, still having to finish the ceremony. "Then, congratulations, Jack Frost. For you are now, and forever more, a guardian!" Everyone cheered as North walked up to Jack and picked him up by the shoulders. "Klasno!" He exclaimed as he hugs the boy before giving him a kiss on the cheek. North laughed at Jack's expression as Bunny cheered. "That's my boy! Wooooo!" 8 little fairies for med a heart as they swooned for Jack. "Keep it together girls. Let's not disgrace the uniform." Tooth commented right as one fainted.

The children cheered loudly as North's sleigh appeared back in the air, fully restored and complete with reindeer. Jamie, with Sophie in hand, walked up to inspect it with the other children. Bunny couldn't help himself but lean over to North. "Everyone loves the sleigh." North smiled as he placed a hand on Jack's shoulder. "Time to go."

Sandy took his que and created some dream sand fireworks I the air as they all prepared to leave. "You're leaving?" Jamie asked, a bit of fear sparking back up. Jack walked over to his young friend as Jamie expressed his growing fears. "What if Pitch comes back? What if we stop believing again? If I can't see you I-"

Jack cut him off as he kneeled down to be at eyelevel with the young boy. "Hey. Hey, hey, slow down, slow down. You telling me you stop believing in the moon when the sun comes up?" Jamie looked down a bit as he admittingly answered a no. "Okay, well do you stop believing in the sun when clouds block it out?" He continued as Jamie laughed at the question and repeated his previous answer. We'll always be there, Jamie. And now...we'll

always be here." Jack said as he pointed to Jamie's heart. "Which kind of makes you a Guardian too. Besides, worst case scenario, I send Loki back in." Jack laughed as he stood up.

Loki choked on his popcorn and walked over to the pair. "You what? I will do no such thing, Frost!" Jack laughed and brushed away Loki's playfully threatening finger. "Admit it, Loki. You like doing good." Loki huffed and crossed his arms defiantly. "I will admit no such thing, I was merely enjoying the destruction of those blasted creatures and getting some sweet revenge on that wannabe king." Jack laughed as he started making his way to the sleigh. "Sure, Lokes, Keep telling yourself that."

As he almost reached the other guardians, Jamie cries out after him, tackling him in a hug. After returning the hug, he booped Jamie on the nose and got onto the sleigh. As North tugged the reins, Jack called out a final message to his good friend. "Oh, Loki! I'm sure Thor will let you join the Avengers after I tell him all about you next Saturday!"

"Jack! Don't you dare! I will skin you alive if you even utter a syllable about this! Frost!" Jack's laugh echoed in the air as Loki yelled after him, lit by the bright shining moon.